

June 29, 2008

Mr. Charles Terreni
Chief Clerk and Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Docketing Department
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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SOUTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Re: Docket 2008-196-E, SCE&G rate increase for new nuclear reactors

Dear Mr. Terreni,

I am concerned about the request by South Carolina Electric & Gas for permission from the Public Service Commission "to conduct initial clearing, to excavate and to perform construction work" in order to start building two new nuclear reactors at the company's V.C. Summer site in Jenkinsville, South Carolina.

Since the company has not demonstrated a need for the two new reactors and no decision has been made by the PSC about the prudence of them, I believe that it is premature for the PSC to approve the request by SCE&G to start clearing the site for the new reactors. The PSC is already considering a request from SCE&G to significantly increase our rates based on the cost of the reactors and any decision on site clearance and construction should not be made until the rate decision is made, which would not be until February 2009.

Although SCE&G is presenting a fast timeline for building the reactors, what should take precedence is the interest of rate payers and the public. There is no urgency in considering SCE&G's construction request at this time. Considering the importance of this process to both South Carolina and to our nation and its long-term impacts on rates, our economy, and the environment, the PSC should proceed cautiously and with much deliberation in considering all requests for construction of costly nuclear reactors. The PSC must not be pushed into the premature decision that SCE&G is seeking and should only consider the request as the rate hearing process unfolds.

Money and resources used for expensive power plants that may turn out to be unnecessary or unwise are assets that will not be available for better energy solutions, or for the other needs of our citizens and our state. Since I am an SCE&G rate payer who will bear part of the cost of new nuclear reactors, I urge you to give highest consideration to the views of the impacted public and ratepayers. Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Howell

Tom Howell
725-D Montague Road
Columbia, SC 29209

As requested, copies of these comments are being sent to:
Office of Regulatory Staff, at 1441 Main Street, Suite 300, Columbia, South Carolina 29201 and
to Mr. Chad Burgess, Esquire, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, 1426 Main Street, MC
130, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.